Revenue Earned by the Spices Board

2140. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by the Spices Board during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what had been the profit of Spices Board, year-wise during this period;

(c) the total quantity of spices exported by Board during this period, item-wise and country-wise figures;

(d) the assistance provided by the Board during this period to farmers for higher production of spices;

(e) whether Spices Board provided any assistance to distressed pepper cultivators; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether any steps are being taken to improve the export of pepper abroad; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The major sources of revenue for Spices Board are: cess collected against export of spices as per the Spices Cess Act, 1986 and Internal & extra-budgetary resources (IEBR), details of which are given below:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
(i) Cess	477.76	412.47	534.88
(ii) I.E.B.R.	28.14	36.36	39.07

(b) and (c) Spices Board is not a profit making organisation and it does not export spices directly. The Board only provides assistance to spice exporters for promoting exportsl of spices and spice products from India.

(d) The Spices Board provides assistance to farmers for higher production through a number of schemes which are: (1) Production and supply of planting material; (2) Replanting of uneconomic gardens; and (3) Irrigation and development in small and large cardamom plantations.

Apart from this, Board makes limited intervention in production in other spices such as pepper, ginger, termeric, Vanilla, Chilly and Seed spices.

(e) Production, research and development aspects in respect of pepper are looked after by Ministry of Agriculture and the State Governments. However, with a view to helping cultivators, the Board has a number of schemes which include:

(i) educating growers to upgrade the quality of pepper through scientific post harvest processing for improving the quality and promoting exports;

(ii) providing subsidised supply of plant protection chemicals to enable them to control diseases;

(iii) production and supply of quality planting material: and

(iv) replantation of old and diseased pepper vines.

(f) Spices Board takes several measures for increasing export of spices (including pepper). These include sending delegations abroad, arranging buyer-seller meets, participating in important international fairs and exhibitions, promoting export of value added forms of spices, upgrading quality, brand promotion and logo promotion.

Units Established under Export Processing Zones

2141. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units established and currently operating under each of the six Export Processing Zones;

(b) whether it is a fact that in all the Export Processing Zones a large number of units still suffer from high mortality rates;

(c) if so, the number of units closed down and which have not even commenced commercial production; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure the revival/operation of closed units in EPZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The number of operational units in the six Export processing Zones is indicated below:

Name of the Zone	No. of units in operation
Kandla Free Trade Zone (KAFTZ)	79
Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ)	121
Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ)	88
Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ)	53
Cochin Export Processing Zone (CEPZ)	29
Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ)	13
TOTAL :	383

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the Export Processing Zones and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rubber India 2000 Project

2142. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a Rs. 445 crore 'Rubber India 2000' project; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and at what stage of consideration is the project at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Government have not drawn up a Rs. 445 crore 'Rubber India 2000' project. However, a perspective plan has been drawn up to achieve self-sufficiency in production of natural rubber subject to availability of funds. This plan includes the following strategies to augment the production of natural rubber in the country:—

(i) Expand the area under rubber cultivation by bringing more and more non-traditional regions under plantation.

(ii) Speed-up replantation of old and low yielding areas with modern high yielding cultivators.

(iii) Raise productivity of existing mature plantations by popularising adoption of modern technology.

This comprehensive perspective plan involves an outlay of Rs. 270 crores between the period 1992-93 to 1996-97. The plan outlay for the current year 1993-94 is Rs. 42.38 crores which includes a foreign aid component of Rs. 16.41 crores.

In order to achieve the target as set out by the perspective plan and to augment the availability of funds, the Rubber Board has recently finalised a comprehensive project with the World Bank with a total foreign aid of US $ 92.0 Million. This project is likely to commence after necessary protocols are signed during the current year. After the implementation of the World Bank Project by 1997-98, possibilities can be explored by the Rubber Board to finance the rest of the schemes as envisaged in the perspective plan to achieve self-sufficiency.

Recognition of Export Houses

2143. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export limit for recognition of export houses, trading and star trading houses;

(b) what is the criteria for setting up of export limits in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that the exporter have demanded for lowering the enhanced limit for recognition of export houses of various nomenclature, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the demand of exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The export limits for recognition of export house.